PART 1

SUMMARY:

D'Artagnan, who is the son of a nobleman, but is also rather poor. He sets off to Paris to make a living, carrying with him an introduction letter to the captain of the King’s Musketeers. On the way he ends up being beaten and the letter is taken from him, but upon arriving in Paris he is still given the opportunity to meet with the captain. He is accepted into the training academy so that he can become a musketeer. While the captain is writing him a new letter he looks out the window and sees the man who robbed him so he goes after the man only to run into the Three Musketeers. He ends up offending them: he reinjures Athos’ wounded shoulder, reveals Porthos’ counterfeit shoulder belt, and unintentionally brought attention to a lady’s handkerchief, offending Aramis. Each musketeer challenges him to a duel. He begins dueling with Athos when they are stopped by the cardinal’s guards and threatened with arrest because of a law against dueling. D'Artagnan helps chase the men away and becomes a close friend and ally to the Three Musketeers.

ANALYSIS/APPLICATION: As of right now, I actually find this to be a little slow, possible just because of the way it is written. The plot seems like it’s going to be very interesting, as I’m only a little way into the book and so many action moments have already happened. As for applying this to our class, I see a lot of the human principles and ideals we went over in our discussion within the text already. D’Artagnan clearly wants to be successful and strong, hence the reason he’s joining the musketeers. He also has a very strong sense of pride, which is a basic human emotion. Another thing shown in this portion, between d’Artagnan and the musketeers, is the feeling of friendship and companionship that many humans need and thrive on.

PART 2

Later, D'Artagnan’s landlord comes to ask for assistance because his wife has been kidnapped by the cardinal’s men, since she is the queen’s linen maid and knows a lot of the queen’s secrets. D'Artagnan saves his wife and in the process of doing so falls in love with her. He later sees her crossing a bridge with the Duke of Buckingham, the Queen’s secret lover, who is in possession of twelve diamond tags. The king throws a ball, at the request of the cardinal and orders the queen to wear the tags that the Duke has. The landlord’s wife asks D'Artagnan to go to London and get the tags back so that the queen can wear them to the ball. D'Artagnan and the three musketeers head to London, only to discover that two tags are missing (because the cardinal ordered them to be removed for blackmail). After having two copies made D'Artagnan (the other musketeers were left behind, in various locations) returns with the tags and presents them to the queen.

ANALYSIS/APPLICATION: The novel is becoming more interesting now and has a lot of subplots to follow, which is a bit difficult, but makes the story more well rounded. The human emotion/ideal love is shown a bit in this chapter, both in regards to D'Artagnan and the landlord. Both D'Artagnan and the landlord love the same woman, in do dangerous things in order to assist her. This also shows heroism, because of D'Artagnan courage and bravery when going into London to retrieve the diamond tags.

PART 3

SUMMARY: D'Artagnan agreesto meet with the landlord’s wife, but before he can she is kidnapped once again by the cardinal’s men. D'Artagnan is then informed that it is too dangerous for him to remain in Paris because the cardinal knows about everything that happens in the city and he will soon find out about the d'Artagnan’s involvement with the diamond tags. D'Artagnan returns to each of the places he left the musketeers and all four of them return to Paris, only to find out that they must find money to purchase equipment for the king. D'Artagnan, while trying to find a way to get money, sees a beautiful woman by the name of Milady. He tries to protect her from a man, but he turns out to be her brother-in-law. The brother-in-law challenges d'Artagnan to a duel and they fight. D'Artagnan wins against him, but doesn’t kill him. In appreciation the brother-in-law introduces d'Artagnan to Milady. During this exchange Milady’s maid sees d'Artagnan and falls in love with him, speaking to him later and informing him that Milady is in love with Count de Wardes. She gives d'Artagnan a love note which Milady has written to de Wardes. D'Artagnan is so angry that he writes a “return letter” from de Wardes and forges de Wardes' signature arranging a nighttime meeting with Milady. While she thinks that she's making love to de Wardes, it will, in reality, be d'Artagnan.

The plan works, and afterward Milady gives d'Artagnan an elegant sapphire ring surrounded with diamonds as a reward to de Wardes, and promises to have d'Artagnan killed for wounding de Wardes earlier in the novel.

ANALYSIS/APPLICATION: This is like, soap opera levels of drama now. Seriously. It’s incredibly interesting, I’ll give it that, and there’s a lot of plot development happening. Overall I am enjoying the book, though some things are just excessively dramatized. There’s a lot of things that relate to human nature in this section: love, greed, anger, jealousy, and friendship. Love and jealousy come hand in hand during this portion of the book with d’artagnan, Milady, and de Wardes. In an extremely negative act of humanism the deception of Milady by d’Artagnan shows that love and jealousy can be taken too far and used in ways that can (and will, eventually) hurt someone.